

### **Amendments to the Specification**

At the indicated page and line numbers, please replace the existing paragraph with the one set forth below.

(Page 7, lines 23-30) In a seventh aspect, the present invention provides a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide having at least about 70% amino acid sequence identity with an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of (1) the amino acid sequence of ScbR, as shown in FIG. 9 (SEQ ID NO: 16), (2) the amino acid sequence of ScbA, as shown in FIG. 10 (SEQ ID NO: 17), and (3) the amino acid sequence of ScbB, as shown in FIG. 11 (SEQ ID NO: 18).